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THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**AND OTHER RECORDS**  
**FOR 1951.**

W. AITCHISON, M.C., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.,  
D.T.M. & H., D.P.H.

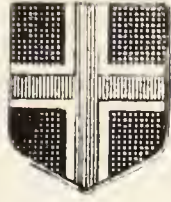
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

W. AITCHISON, M.C., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M. & H.,  
D.P.H.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

LESLIE OATES, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JOHN BITTLESTONE, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

RODENT OFFICER :

MR. A. T. SMITH.

CLERICAL STAFF :

MRS. J. WILBY, Clerk.

MISS ALICE BARRASS, Shorthand Typist.

DURHAM,  
September, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1951.

One case of the dread disease of Poliomyelitis occurred but very fortunately in this particular instance the disease was non-paralytic and the patient concerned made a good recovery.

It is pleasant to record that the incidence of disease both of scarlet fever and diphtheria showed a decrease.

In the case of diphtheria there is no doubt that the propaganda and efforts made to induce parents to have their children immunised against this dangerous disease has been amply repaid by the reduced notified cases. It is my earnest hope that parents will not assume a false sense of security by the reduction of cases but that they will appreciate that only by a continued vigilance in having their children inoculated can we hope to maintain this happy state of affairs.

I have during my year of office endeavoured to ascertain the position as regards tuberculosis in the City area and careful investigation of all cases has been carried out with the co-operation of the County Health Department with a view to obtaining accurate information as to all active cases remaining on the register.

It is understandably difficult to obtain a clear picture of the health of a town in the short period of one year but it does appear to me that the health of the population of the City of Durham as reflected in the statistics available is good and that the health services provided are most efficient.

In conclusion I desire to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their kindly interest and support during the year 1951.

Thanks are due to the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Leslie Oates and his staff for their work during the year and for their ready co-operation on all occasions on which it was called for. There has been complete harmony in the health department during my tenure of office a state of affairs which is always conducive to the smooth working of a very important department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. AITCHISON,



## THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## AND OTHER RECORDS

for 1951.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1950 :—20,770

Do. do. 1951 :—20,240

Number of inhabited houses end of 1950 :—5,399.

Do. 1951 :—5,464.

Rateable value, 1950 :—£129,105 ; 1951 :—£134,043.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1950 :—£526 6s. 3d.

1951 :—£535 8s. 2d.

## UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed in the City at 31st December, 1950 and 1951 was as follows :—

			<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Boys (Between 15 &amp; 17 yrs.).</i>	<i>Girls</i>
1950	...	...	211	31	11	3
1951	...	...	120	60	18	27

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

## BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate .....	280	138	142	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) 14·43.
Illegitimate .....	12	7	5	

## Stillbirths :—

Legitimate .....	7	3	4	Rate (per 1,000 total births) 23·41.
Illegitimate .....	—	—	—	

## DEATHS.

224	109	115	Death-rate (per 1,000 population) 11·07.
-----	-----	-----	---

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births .....	47
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births .....	48
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births .....	—

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	1
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....	2

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
224	14	—	—	3	2	8	59	138

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY  
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Birth Rate	12·9	16·8	17·9	15·5	21·7	20·0	17·9	15·4	16·8	14·4
Death Rate	13·2	14·5	14·3	11·3	12·2	13·3	9·9	11·0	10·9	11·0
Infant Mortality	60	50	66	55	38	49	32	35	22	47

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE  
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1951  
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM  
CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	15·5	0·36	12·5	1·4	29·6
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ... ..	17·3	0·45	13·4	1·6	33·9
148 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931) ... ..	16·7	0·38	12·5	1·0	27·6
London ... ..	17·8	0·37	13·1	0·7	26·4
Administrative County of Durham ... ..	17·6	0·46	12·4	2·0	42·0
Durham City ... ..	14·4	0·34	11·0	6·8	47·9



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1951.

Cause of Death.	Total	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES .. .. .	224	109	115
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	4	3	1
Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	2	—	2
Syphilitic disease .. .. .	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—	—
Whooping cough .. .. .	1	—	1
Meningococcal infections .. .. .	1	—	1
Acute poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	—	—
Measles .. .. .	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases .. .. .	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .. .. .	4	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .. .. .	7	5	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast .. .. .	5	—	5
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .. .. .	3	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. .. .	6	5	1
Leukaemia, aleukaemia .. .. .	1	1	—
Diabetes .. .. .	4	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. .. .	24	11	13
Coronary disease, angina .. .. .	24	19	5
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	8	6	2
Other heart disease .. .. .	31	7	24
Other circulatory disease .. .. .	5	2	3
Influenza .. .. .	8	3	5
Pneumonia .. .. .	10	6	4
Bronchitis .. .. .	9	4	5
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	2	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .. .. .	4	3	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .. .. .	2	—	2
Nephritis and nephrosis .. .. .	2	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate .. .. .	2	2	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	1	—	1
Congenital malformations .. .. .	4	1	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	36	14	22
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	1	1	—
All other accidents .. .. .	11	8	3
Suicide .. .. .	2	2	—
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	—	—	—

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	10	10	—
Diphtheria .....	2	2	—
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	7	4	10
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	1	1	—
Whooping Cough.....	80	—	1
Malaria .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	205	1	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND  
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	3	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 .....	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 .....	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	1
15 — 20 .....	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
20 — 25 .....	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 — 35 .....	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45 .....	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55 .....	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 .....	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and Upwards ....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	12	12	2	2	4	1	—	1

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the Sanitary Section of your Health Department for the year 1951.

The provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, relating to clearance of unhealthy areas has not been used for over 10 years (this being fairly general throughout the country) and it is still difficult to reconcile the further demolition of dwelling houses, even though they may be of a very poor standard, with the present position as shown by the waiting lists for new houses. No doubt action is needed to eliminate outworn and sub-standard dwellings but it will prove difficult to balance any such action with the problem of those families without a home of their own, overcrowding and other urgent cases requiring attention.

Food premises continue to receive the attention of the Department but there is no doubt that the supply of a safe and clean food is primarily one of hygienic handling by those engaged in the food trades and in the preparation of food in the home.

Lectures, exhibitions and films dealing with this subject are playing an important part in educating those concerned as to the serious danger to health caused by thoughtless actions which result in contamination of food but it does seem that such education should commence at an early age. If it is not already a part of the school curriculum to teach hygiene in food matters and the dangers relating to unhygienic habits it would appear to be very advisable that such a subject should be included as a necessary part of a child's education.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee my appreciation for the co-operation and assistance they have always so readily given in the successful working of this Section of the Department.

In conclusion I wish to tender my thanks for the co-operation extended to me by the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. W. Aitchison. My thanks are also due to my colleague Mr. J. Bittlestone and the Department's clerical staff for their excellent work during the past year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LESLIE OATES,  
Senior Sanitary Inspector.



SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY  
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE  
YEAR 1951.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Notices Complied.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions ... ..	3	—	3
Structural Defects ... ..	144	6	135
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—
Lodging-houses ... ..	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	1	—	1
Cowsheds ... ..	—	—	—
Bake houses ... ..	1	—	1
Slaughter-houses ... ..	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	1	—	1
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	9	—	9
Waterclosets ... ..	10	—	10
Defective Yard Paving ... ..	1	—	1
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps ... ..	2	—	2
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
Other Faults ... ..	27	13	40
Water Supply ... ..	—	—	—
Pigsties ... ..	—	—	—
Animals Improperly Kept ... ..	1	—	1
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ... ..	16	—	10
Lack of proper Dust Bins ... ..	7	—	5
Fishfriers ... ..	2	—	2
Factories ... ..	8	—	8
Shops ... ..	37	—	37
TOTALS ... ..	269	19	265

II.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... ..	29
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	18
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	1
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things ... ..	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ... ..	nil

III.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year ... ..	88
Number of such Houses occupied during year ... ..	61
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ... ..	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets ... ..	nil
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ... ..	nil
Total number of Water-closets in District ... ..	6224
Total number of Ash-closets in District ... ..	56
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District ... ..	26

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)...	453
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	1,288
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ... ..	nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose... ..	nil
3.		Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	1
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of 3 above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ...	115

## REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	94
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## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

## A.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	19
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners... ..	15
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	3

## B.—Proceedings under sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	nil
(2)	Number of houses rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners... ..	nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	1

## D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	nil
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## INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

During the year 920 inspections were made of properties in the District. It was found necessary to serve 139 informal notices for the remedying of various public health nuisances and the majority of such notices received the prompt attention of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

In 19 cases of non-compliance statutory notices were served on the owners.

This action resulted in the owners carrying out the necessary works in 15 cases and the Corporation doing the work in default and recovering costs in five cases. In one case court proceedings were taken and a court order issued.

835 visits were made with the object of seeing that notices were complied with.

## HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

During the year under review 88 houses were erected in the City area comprising 75 council houses and 13 privately built houses.

At 31st December, 1951 the number of council houses erected since the war totalled 581.

The total number of houses built for, and controlled by the Council, was, at the date mentioned, 1,221.

In addition to these properties the Council have, by arrangement with the North-Eastern Housing Association, Ltd., the letting of 365 houses owned by that Association.

One property owned by the Council and previously used as offices is in process of alteration for use as additional housing accommodation.

When alterations are completed accommodation will be provided for five single persons, one married couple and a warden.

This type of accommodation is in the nature of an experiment but if successful it is possible that the Council will endeavour to secure further properties of a similar type to that being altered in an endeavour to provide, in addition to bungalows, etc., a reasonable standard of living accommodation for the many cases of single persons at present living in most unsatisfactory conditions.

Rehousing of tenants from slum clearance areas proceeded satisfactorily. A few of these clearance area properties are still being used to provide temporary homes for families awaiting allocation of new council houses but those areas containing properties potentially dangerous to the occupants have been receiving the urgent attention of the Council. Tenants from such areas were being re-housed as quickly as possible and a considerable amount of very desirable demolition work will be possible in 1952.

The Council during the year again reviewed the position with respect to vacant and derelict sites in the City. Whilst the development of some of these sites depends on the final siting of the new through road active steps were taken to utilise others for the building of flats and houses.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE DISINFECTION AND VERMIN DISINFESTATION.

30 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases. Disinfection was carried out at 18 premises where bedding and articles of clothing, etc., were also treated.

38 premises, of which 23 were council houses, were disinfested.

### RODENT CONTROL.

Since the County Council in 1944 delegated their powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act to the City Council the Health Department has taken all necessary steps to exterminate rats and mice.

Two maintenance treatments of the City's sewers are carried out each year and the rat population in these particular harbourages is being kept at a minimum.

During the year 1951 all complaints of rodent infestation received attention and test baiting, followed by poison baiting when necessary, was carried out at all Corporation owned properties where infestations were likely to occur. The river banks also received periodical attention.

All rodent control work is carried out in accordance with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries instructions and full advantage has always been taken of that Ministry's offer of grant aid.

The following table is a summary of the rodent control work carried out during the year :—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.  
REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses.	Agricultural.	All other (including Business and industrial).	Total.
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2) .. ..	13	5463	25	702	6203
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1951 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise .. ..	(a) 1	70	1	34	106
	(b) 7	2	7	11	27
III. Number of properties (under 11) found to be infested by rats ..	Major 3	12	3	11	29
	Minor 5	28	5	20	58
IV. Number of properties (under 11) found to be seriously infested by mice .. ..	NIL	6	NIL	12	18
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority ..	8	46	8	43	105
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4 —(1) Treatment ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing) .. ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	—
TOTAL ..	37	5627	49	833	6546
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4 .. ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings ..	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	—
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out .. ..	19	—	—	—	—



## DRAINAGE.

The following particulars relate to drainage work carried out by the Department during the year :—

New drainage systems laid	...	...	...	...	17
Drainage systems reconstructed	...	...	...	...	6
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	3
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation provided to drains	...	...	...	...	7
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	8
Other drainage defects remedied	...	...	...	...	6
Smoke tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	25
Water tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	193
Colour tests applied to drains	...	...	...	...	18

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There were no licensed "moveable dwellings" in the City during the year 1951.

Occasionally complaints are received that caravans are sited in the area but it is always found that such dwellings are staying for very short periods and apart from ascertaining that no public health nuisances are being committed by the occupiers, it is not possible to take any further action in such cases.

Caravans arriving with circuses or fairs are invariably well maintained and cause no trouble whatsoever to the Department.

# ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Premises. (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	27	46	6	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	74	47	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	8	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	106	101	8	—

## 2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect'r	By H.M. Inspect'r	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2) .. ..					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) .. ..					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient .. ..					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	4	4	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	8	8	—	2	—



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The following milk dealers licences were issued by the Council under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—

" Pasteurised " Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	7
" Pasteurised " Milk Dealers Supplementary Licences			5
" Sterilised " Milk Dealers Licences	...	...	9

Registered premises have been inspected during the year in order to ensure that the various provisions of the Regulations were being complied with.

In one case where the dairy premises were unsatisfactory the owner concerned has erected a new dairy.

## ICE CREAM.

Five applications for registration under the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of pre-packed ice cream were approved by the Council making a total of 42 premises registered for this purpose. Two firms are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Samples of ice-cream obtained from producers were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. One of the samples obtained which was unsatisfactory (Provisional Grade 3) proved to be satisfactory after further sampling.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

The following list shows the quantities of food that were found upon inspection to be unfit for human consumption. All food condemned was voluntarily surrendered. As much of the condemned food as was practicable was utilised for salvage or pig-feeding.

$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Almonds.	2 tins Liquid Egg.
19 lb. Bacon.	13 Loaves.
76 Bunches Bananas.	$3\frac{1}{4}$ st. Meat.
$43\frac{1}{4}$ lb. Biscuits.	353 Tins Meat.
$18\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Butter.	9 jars Meat Paste.
151 pkts. Cake Mixture.	54 Tins Milk.
48 lb. Cake.	6 doz. pkts. Pancake Mixture.
15 st. Cereal.	150 Pies.
$21\frac{3}{4}$ lb. Cheese.	21 jars Pickles.

105½ lb. Cooked Meat.	39 cwt. Potatoes.
30 pkts. Figs.	6 jars Salad Cream.
4 st. Fish.	39 Bottles Sauce.
66 tins Fish.	14½ lb. Sausage.
21 Fish Cakes.	136 pkts. Soup.
254 Tins Fruit.	72 Tins Soup.
7 Tins Fruit Juice.	1 lb. Sugar.
2 Fruit Puddings.	27 pkts. Suet.
139 Tins Ham.	14 lb. Toasted Marshmallow.
43 jars Jam.	426 Tins Vegetables.

### FOOD PREMISES—GENERAL.

#### INSPECTIONS.

During the course of the year 395 visits were made to food premises. Any unsatisfactory conditions observed during such inspections received the prompt attention of the food traders concerned.

#### BYE-LAWS—CLEANLINESS OF FOOD.

At the request of the Chamber of Trade a meeting was arranged with the food section members of that organisation where the proposed new bye-laws relating to cleanliness of food, and the effect of such law on the tradespeople concerned, was fully discussed.

#### LECTURES, ETC.

Local organisations continue to show interest in the work of the Public Health Department and particularly with respect to that part of the Department's duties relating to food inspection, food handling and food premises. Requests to give talks to such organisations are always accepted and the time spent on these activities is well repaid by the interest shown.

#### SCHOOL KITCHENS.

At the request of the Durham County Education Committee a detailed report concerning hygiene in the City's school kitchens and central cooking depot was prepared and forwarded on completion to that Authority.

This report gave full information as to existing arrangements for food preparation and personal hygiene at the various kitchens and depot together with recommendations for improvements where necessary.

#### FOOD POISONING.

During the year under review no notifications of food poisoning were received.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950.

45 visits were paid to shops in order to ascertain if the provisions of the Shops Acts were being complied with. The following sanitary defects were found and subsequently remedied by the shop-keepers concerned :—

Defective drainage	...	...	...	...	4
Offensive accumulation	...	...	...	...	3
To cleanse walls and ceilings	...	...	...	...	1
Defective sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	4
Insufficient washing facilities	...	...	...	...	8
Other defects	...	...	...	...	16

SUMMARY OF WORK OF SANITARY INSPECTORS'  
DEPARTMENT.

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	207
Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	453
Houses re-inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	835
Visits under Factories Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Visits to food shops and food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	395
Visits under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Visits in connection with defective or new drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Smoke and water tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Preliminary Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Visits to cases of infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc. disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to verminous houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
Verminous premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Interviews with owners, contractors, complainants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	359
Visits to caravans	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections of rivers and streams	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspections of common yards and passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Inspections of public sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Visits in connection with Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,494
Miscellaneous sanitary inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	161



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination :—

Baking Powder	...	...	2	<i>Brought forward</i>	...	...	19
Butter	...	...	1	Malt Vinegar	...	...	1
Cocoa	...	...	2	Margarine	...	...	2
Coffee	...	...	2	Marmalade	...	...	1
Cooking Fat	...	...	1	Milk	...	...	49
Cornflour	...	...	1	Mincemeat	...	...	1
Custard Powder	...	...	2	Mixed Cut Peel	...	...	1
Demerara Sugar	...	...	1	Oatmeal	...	...	1
Gravy Browning	...	...	1	Olive Oil	...	...	1
Ice Cream	...	...	3	Rice	...	...	1
Icing Sugar	...	...	1	Tea	...	...	2
Lard	...	...	2				—
			—				79
<i>Carried forward</i>	...		19				==
			==				

1 sample of Ice Cream 32.8% deficient in Fat was the subject of a prosecution in which a fine of £1 was imposed with 10/6d. costs. A sample of Oatmeal was contaminated with Mouse Dirt, and this fact was duly reported to the Sanitary Inspector.

All of the remaining samples were reported genuine.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

Mr. J. A. Rodwell, Chief Engineer, Durham County Water Board, has kindly submitted the following brief report on water supplies :—

“ The quality of the water has been maintained at a high standard and, so far as is known, there was no shortage at any point in the area. Work was commenced on the new 9" main to feed the new housing scheme at Framwellgate Moor and it is hoped to have this completed in time to meet the demands of the new residents. The position with regard to 3" water mains has deteriorated and the Board is being forced by the Ministry of Housing and Country Planning to provide a water main up one side of the road only, necessitating the Councils and others providing across-the-road services for those houses on the other side.

During the year four further filter units were brought into operation at our Waskerley Plant and further units are to be installed in the coming year when it is hoped that there will be further colour removal from the water."

## REFUSE COLLECTION, PUBLIC BATHS, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The following information relating to Refuse Collection, Public Baths, Sewerage and Sewage Works has been supplied by the City Engineer whose Department is responsible for these undertakings.

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

Regularly weekly collection of household refuse is maintained throughout the year. Trade refuse is collected as required. Every effort is made to collect waste paper.

### PUBLIC BATHS.

A four hour turnover with filtration and chlorination is maintained at the swimming pools.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Proposals for the enlargement of the Barker's Haugh Sewage Works are again to be put before the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at an early date, as the present works are overloaded.







